

Message Text

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SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION

REF: LISBON 6482, 6418

1. PRESIDENT FORD'S TRIP TO CHINA: GOP-OPERATED NATIONAL TV NETWORK NOV. 4 PRIME-TIME EVENING NEWSCASTS HIGHLIGHTED WIRE-SERVICE REPORTS THAT THE CHINESE HAVE BEEN DIFFICULT TO PIN DOWN ON A DATE FOR THE FORD VISIT. NEWSCASTER REPEATED SPECULATION THAT CHINESE ARE SHOWING THEIR DISPLEASURE AT U.S.-SOVIET DETENTE.

2. U.S. CABINET CHANGES: MODERATELY HEAVY NEWSPLAY GIVEN ON NOV. 4 AND 5 INTERNATIONAL NEWS PAGES ABOUT SCHLESINGER, RUMSFELD, RICHARDSON, BUSH CHANGES. RADICAL LEFTIST "O SEculo" REPORT OF NOV. 5 WAS HEADLINED, "SCHLESINGER DEPARTURE WORRIES NATO." NO COMMENTARIES.

3. "O SEculo" NEWSPAPER: MEDIA IS GIVING HEAVY ATTENTION TO CONTINUING INTERNAL BATTLE AT LISBON'S PRO-COMMUNIST DAILY "O LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SEculo," WHICH MISSED PUBLICATION ONE DAY, APPEARED LATE

ANOTHER, AND HAS BEEN REDUCED FROM 16 TO 8 PAGES SINCE AN OCT. 27 REFERENDUM VOTE ON A NEW DIRECTOR AND EDITORIAL CHIEF. REFERENDUM MINORITY GROUP IDENTIFIED BY PORTUGUESE PRESS AS ALIGNED WITH PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY (PCP) NAMED INTERIM DIRECTOR AND HAS BEEN PUBLISHING THE PAPER, AS IT HAD CONTROL OF MOST GRAPHIC FACILITIES; THIS MINORITY GROUP NOV. 4 SPONSORED A "WORKERS' PLENARY", ATTENDED BY AROUND 100 OF THE FIRM'S 800 EMPLOYEES, WHICH "SUSPENDED" 16 EMPLOYEES WHO HAD LED THE MAJORITY FACTION IN THE REFERENDUM. THE PRESS REPORTED THAT MAJORITY FACTION STILL HOLDS SOME OF THE "O SEculo" FACILITIES AND THAT DEMONSTRATION IN FAVOR OF THAT GROUP HAS BEEN CALLED BY THE JOURNALISTS' SYNDICATE IN LISBON FOR EVENING OF NOV. 5.

4. MASS COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY FIGHT: SMALL BUT VOCAL WORKERS' GROUP WITHIN MINISTRY CONTINUES TO OPPOSE NUMBER TWO MAN THERE, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INFORMATION FERREIRA DA CUNHA. MEETING OF THIS GROUP, WITH OUTSIDERS FROM FAR-LEFT POLITICAL GROUPS ATTENDING AS OBSERVERS, VOTED NOV. 4 TO BAR FERREIRA DA CUNHA FROM ENTERING MINISTRY BUILDING UNTIL AFTER CONCLUSION OF A REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL INVESTIGATION ON ALLEGATIONS THAT HE WAS CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH A "SUPER SPY" AGENCY DURING THE CAETANO REGIME. AN EDITORIAL IN NOV. 5 PRO-COMMUNIST "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" CRITICIZED MASS COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER ALMEIDA SANTOS FOR SUPPORTING HIS DEPUTY, AND BRUSQUELY URGED THE MINISTER TO RESIGN.

5. AMBASSADOR'S TRAVELS: AMBASSADOR CARLUCCI'S SIX-DAY VISIT TO OPORTO CONSULAR DISTRICT, IN NORTHERN PORTUGAL, HAS DRAWN CONSIDERABLE PRESS, TV PLAY. FAR-LEFT PRESS, WHICH OPPOSES AZEVEDO GOVERNMENT, HAS SOUGHT TO USE FACT OF AMBASSADOR'S TRAVEL TO INSINUATE THAT THIS MAY RESULT SOMEHOW IN U.S. INTERFERENCE IN PORTUGUESE INTERNAL POLITICS; MANY SUCH STORIES NOTE THAT AMBASSADOR PREVIOUSLY WAS POSTED TO OTHER COUNTRIES WHERE "RIGHT-WING COUPS OCCURRED." FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL IN NOV. 5 "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" DEMANDED A GOP EXPLANATION OF REASON FOR AMBASSADOR'S TRAVEL AND IMPLIED THAT SUCH AN ORIENTATION VISIT IS UNUSUAL FOR DIPLOMATS.

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